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Info:

ACTION: Amembassy ROME

CIVAIR

REF: State 288516

STATE

(1) During second week of civair negotiations, delegations continued to make progress toward agreement on routes, all-cargo, and capacity issues. Atmosphere throughout was cordial. However, it became clear that problem of multiple designation in particular, of carriers, presents great difficulty both sides.

(2) In view many aspects that still need be worked out, not only on above subjects but also important other items such as customs and rate articles, and because of Christmas holiday season, delegations agreed recess meetings. On December 20 delegations signed Memorandum of Consultations briefly outlining issues discussed and attaching working documents presented by each side during discussions. Memorandum stated discussions to resume in Rome on or about February 3, 1969.

(3) At December 20 meeting US Delegation referred to reports that US had entered into restrictive multiple designation arrangements with other countries. USDEL explained

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that USG policy on multiple designation is firm and consistently applied in all US civair agreements with exception Canada and Mexico which were special cases, and UK and Japan where US commitment is confined to consultation. Italian Delegation appreciated information and x asked specifically whether USG had restrictive arrangements on this aspect with Greece, Spain and Portugal; USDel informed them USG did not. Pointed out, however, that policy on multiple designation implemented with great restraint by US, as for example in TransPacific case--keeping in mind both aviation and foreign policy considerations.

(4) Copy of Memorandum of Consulatations and minutes of meeting being air pouched to Embassy.

RUSK

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